

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0565

FOR S/MS - AMB. SHULMAN AND EUR MR. VEST FROM LUERS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OREP, OVIP, UR, US
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL/PARLIAMENTARY VISITS

1. DURING MY JANUARY 11 CALL AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT FOR SENATOR STEVENSON. I EXPLAINED THE SENATOR'S INTERESTS AND DESIRE TO BECOME BETTER INFORMED ON THE SALT ISSUES AND TO DISCUSS TRADE AND ENERGY QUESTIONS.

2. THE DISCUSSION OF STEVENSON'S AGENDA LED LOGICALLY INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE VALUE OF U.S. SENATORS VISITING THE SOVIET UNION. I GAVE SOKOLOV AND FEDOSEYEV (KOM-PLEKTOV IS SICK AGAIN BUT I AM SCHEDULED TO SEE KORNIYENKO) MY VIEWS ON THE VALUE OF SENATORIAL VISITS TO MOSCOW IF SENATORS HAVE GOOD ACCESS TO SOVIET OFFICIALS. I ASKED THEM FOR THE MFA VIEWS ON INCREASING THE NUMBERS OF SENATORS WHO VISIT THE USSR.

3. SOKOLOV, SPEAKING WITH SOME ASSUREDNESS, SAID THAT WE SHOULD SEE HOW SENATOR STEVENSON'S TRIP TURNS OUT FOR BOTH SIDES AND ALSO SEE HOW THE PONOMAREV PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IS TREATED IN THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS IN PRINCIPLE ARE
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PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL WITH VISITS SUCH AS STEVENSON'S BUT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE THE LEAD IN WORKING WITH THE U.S. SENATE --THAT IS THE JOB OF THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. YET THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE PREPARED TO HELP OUT WITH SENATORS WHOM THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS DETERMINED ARE INTERESTED IN VISITING THE USSR AND WHO

MIGHT BE HELPFUL. HE INTERJECTED THAT TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN TOLD TO INVITE SENATORS, WHO, IT TURNS OUT, HAVE NO INTEREST IN TRAVELING TO MOSCOW.

3. COMMENT: SOKOLOV WAS CLEARLY SAYING THREE THINGS:

A) WE'LL SEE WHAT MUTUAL BENEFITS ACCRUE FROM THE STEVENSON VISIT;

B) TREAT THE PONOMAREV DELEGATION WELL;

C) DOBRYNIN CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO DO THE SPADE WORK ON SELECTING AND INVITING SENATORS BUT MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO WORK WITH US.

4. ON THE SECOND POINT IT IS CLEAR FROM HERE THAT PONOMAREV STILL EXPECTS TO SEE THE PRESIDENT. ONE ARGUMENT THAT COULD BE RAISED WITH THE NSC IS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S RECEIVING PONOMAREV WILL HELP US IN GETTING GOOD PROGRAMS FOR FUTURE SENATOR VISITS.
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